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**The following is an editorial from Sen. Alan Sanborn. To verify this, please call his office at (517) 373-7670.**

#### **Guest Editorial**

#### **National Hunting and Fishing Day**

**By Sen. Alan Sanborn, R-Richmond Township**

Residents and visitors of Michigan can enjoy almost 1 million acres of public land because of the commitment of our state's hunters and anglers.

When they buy hunting and fishing licenses, a portion of their dollars go toward buying and maintaining public land for all kinds of outdoor activities, whether for hunting, fishing, quiet walks or bird spotting.

I mention this because Sept. 25 is National Hunting and Fishing Day, which acknowledges the importance of sportsmen and women to wildlife conservation. Just as in Michigan, federal programs use excise taxes on the sale of hunting and fishing equipment to help support the preservation of natural habitat all across our beautiful country. These lands are open to hunters and non-hunters alike and contribute to the quality of life of all.

More than a century ago, one of our nation's most famous sportsmen, President Theodore Roosevelt, established the first national wildlife refuge. In 1937, hunters and other conservationists joined together and began developing funding systems for wildlife restoration and management.

Hunter-financed programs have benefited many wild species including deer, elk, wood duck and the bald eagle. In Michigan, sportsmen's dollars have led to the dramatic comeback of the wild turkey and pheasant, the construction of fish ladders and other significant wildlife preservation and restoration efforts.

This year's National Hunting and Fishing Day will emphasize the traditions, values and enjoyment associated with outdoor sports. It also will provide an opportunity for those who love the outdoors to consider the beneficial role that hunters and anglers play in preserving and enhancing our natural areas and outdoor opportunities.

For more information on hunting and wildlife sites, visit the Michigan Department of Natural Resources Web site at [www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr).

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